

Arsenic

The current USEPA standard for arsenic in drinking water supplies is .05 mg/L. This level was developed in 1942 by the Public Health Service and was not based on risk assessment methodology.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 require the USEPA to propose a revised standard by January 1, 2000 and to promulgate a final rule no later than January 1, 2001. The USEPA is to use the Clean Water Act as guidance. Under the CWA, the primary MCL criteria for arsenic was established at 0.018 ug/L. In addition, the SDWA requires that USEPA develop a comprehensive research plan for arsenic focused on reducing the uncertainty in assessing health risks associated with exposure to low levels of arsenic within 180 days. The final draft of the research plan is to be submitted to the Board of Scientific Counselors in January 1998.

Source:

USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Bulletin. November 1997.